

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-09 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-09 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00

EB-03 FEAE-00 FPC-01 INT-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 SCI-03

STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 DRC-01 /093 W

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R 071407Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8486

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ECON, IR

SUBJECT: IN OPENING PARLIAMENT SHAH FORECASTS HIGH OIL REVENUE,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS, PURSUIT OF PEACE

REF: A. TEHRAN 6505 (NOTAL; B. TEHRAN 6458 (NOTAL)

1. SHAH'S SPEECH OCTOBER 5 AT OPENING OF PARLIAMENT
PROVIDED GOOD SUMMARY OF HIS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PROGRAMS.

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PORTIONS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARALLELED THOSE OF RAMSAR

CONFERENCE SPEECH OF AUGUST 1 (REFTEL A). THE FEW SPECIFIC FIGURES GIVEN FOR VARIOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS APPROXIMATED THOSE REPORTED IN REFTEL B, ALTHOUGH AMOUNT EXPECTED TO BE SPENT TO MAINTAIN LOW PRICES OF BASIC CONSUMER GOODS WAS STATED TO BE \$3.26 BILLION, UP SOMEWHAT FROM EARLIER ESTIMATE OF \$3.1 BILLION. PRESS HEADLINES FEATURED HIS PREDICTION THAT OIL REVENUES DURING FIFTH PLAN WOULD EXCEED \$102 BILLION AND THAT GNP GROWTH RATE OF 40 PERCENT AT CONSTANT PRICES WOULD BE ATTAINED IN THE CURRENT YEAR. HE SAID RETURNS FROM NATURAL GAS SALES TO USSR WOULD ADD \$1 BILLION TO REVENUES DURING FIFTH PLAN PERIOD.

2. LARGE PORTION OF SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO PROGRAMS OF FREE EDUCATION THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE AND IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, REPEATING SOME POINTS MADE IN RAMSAR CONFERENCE. SHAH SEEMED TO FORESEE LARGE EMPLOYMENT ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT WHEN HE NOTED THAT "SECONDARY SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IS FREE IN RETURN FOR GOVERNMENT-SERVICE CONTRACTS - WHICH ARE THEMSELVES INSURANCE POLICIES FOR DECENT EMPLOYMENT WITH PRIVILEGES EQUAL TO THOSE ENJOYED BY OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS." SHAH STATED THAT \$470 MILLION HAD BEEN EARMARKED FOR FREE EDUCATION IN CURRENT IRANIAN YEAR.

3. EXPRESSING HIS SATISFACTION THAT IRAN HAS BEEN ABLE TO GIVE FINANCIAL AID TO EUROPEAN NATIONS AS WELL AS OTHERS, SHAH PLEDGED ACTIVE IRANIAN ROLE IN PURSUIT OF PEACE. HE TALKED IN GENERAL TERMS OF HIS PROPOSALS FOR A MIDDLE EAST NUCLEAR FREE ZONE AND FOR A GROUPING OF INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES. HE REFERRED TO THE LATTER AS "AN ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDING WHICH WOULD NATURALLY LEAD TO A POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT."

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE SPEECH BROKE NO NEW GROUND, IT IS USEFUL AS A SYNTHESIS OF SHAH'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN08494
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740284-0078
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741066/aaaacedb.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. TEHRAN 6505 (NOTAL; B. TEHRAN 645, 8 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IN OPENING PARLIAMENT SHAH FORECASTS HIGH OIL REVENUE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS, PURSUIT OF PEACE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ECON, IR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005